AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A soft agglomerate of cuprous oxide ultrafine particles which has an average primary particle diameter of not more than 100 nm and an average secondary particle diameter of not less than 0.2 μm.

2. (Previously Presented) A soft agglomerate of cuprous oxide ultrafine particles according to claim 1 which has an average primary particle diameter of not more than 25 nm.

3. (Previously Presented) A soft agglomerate of cuprous oxide ultrafine particles according to claim 1 which has an average primary particle diameter of not more than 10 nm.

4. (Previously Presented) A soft agglomerate of cuprous oxide ultrafine particles according to claim 1 which does not have a surfactant or a bulky organic compound on the particle surface.

5. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a soft agglomerate of cuprous oxide ultrafine particles of claim 1 which comprises simultaneously carrying out production of cuprous oxide ultrafine particles and formation of a soft agglomerate of the ultrafine particles by producing the cuprous oxide ultrafine particles in a bad dispersion medium.

6. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a soft agglomerate of cuprous oxide ultrafine particles of claim 1 which comprises producing cuprous oxide ultrafine particles in a good dispersion medium and then forming a soft agglomerate of the cuprous oxide ultrafine particles

by giving an agglomerating force between the cuprous oxide ultrafine particles.

7. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a soft agglomerate of cuprous oxide ultrafine particles of claim 1 which comprises producing cuprous oxide ultrafine particles in a good dispersion medium and simultaneously therewith forming a soft agglomerate of the cuprous oxide ultrafine particles by giving an agglomerating force between the cuprous oxide ultrafine particles.

8. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a dispersion of cuprous oxide ultrafine particles which comprises a first step of synthesizing cuprous oxide ultrafine particles having an average primary particle diameter of not more than 100 nm in a first solvent and simultaneously therewith obtaining a soft agglomerate of cuprous oxide ultrafine particles having a secondary particle diameter of not less than 0.2 μm, a second step of separating the soft agglomerate obtained at the first step from the first solvent, and a third step of redispersing the soft agglomerate separated at the second step in a second solvent to obtain a dispersion of cuprous oxide ultrafine particles.

9. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a dispersion of cuprous oxide ultrafine particles according to claim 8, wherein the dispersion of cuprous oxide ultrafine particles obtained at the third step is in the colloidal state and the cuprous oxide ultrafine particles are suspended in the dispersion.

10. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a dispersion of cuprous oxide ultrafine particles according to claim 9, wherein the cuprous oxide ultrafine particles have an average secondary particle diameter of less than 200 nm in the dispersion of cuprous oxide ultrafine particles which is in the colloidal state.

11. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a dispersion of cuprous oxide ultrafine particles according to claim 8, wherein the second solvent contains a dispersing agent for the cuprous oxide ultrafine particles.

12. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a dispersion of cuprous oxide ultrafine particles according to claim 11, wherein the dispersing agent is a polyhydric alcohol.

13. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a dispersion of cuprous oxide ultrafine particles according to claim 12, wherein the polyhydric alcohol has a carbon number of not more than 10.

14. (Previously Presented) A dispersion of cuprous oxide ultrafine particles which is obtained by the method of claim 8.

15. (Previously Presented) A dispersion of cuprous oxide ultrafine particles according to claim 14 which contains 0.01-50% by weight of a reducing agent capable of reducing the cuprous oxide ultrafine particles in the dispersion.

16. (Previously Presented) Cuprous oxide ultrafine particles which have an average primary particle diameter of not more than 100 nm and an average secondary particle diameter of less than 0.2 μm.

17. (Currently Amended) Cuprous oxide ultrafine particles according to ~~claim 15~~ claim 16 having an average primary particle diameter of not more than 25 nm.

18. (Currently Amended) Cuprous oxide ultrafine particles according to ~~claim 15~~ claim 16 having an average primary particle diameter of not more than 10 nm.

19. (Previously Presented) Cuprous oxide ultrafine particles according to claim 16 which do not have a surfactant or a bulky organic compound on the surface of the particles.

20. (Previously Presented) A method for producing cuprous oxide ultrafine particles of claim 16 which comprises obtaining cuprous oxide ultrafine particles by dispersing the soft agglomerate of cuprous oxide ultrafine particles.

21. (Previously Presented) A colloidal dispersion of cuprous oxide ultrafine particles which contains cuprous oxide ultrafine particles of claim 16, the particles being suspended in the dispersion medium.

22. (Previously Presented) A colloidal dispersion of cuprous oxide ultrafine particles according to claim 21, wherein the total weight of the cuprous oxide ultrafine particles is not less than 10% by weight based on the total weight of the dispersion.

23.-29. (Cancelled)

30. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a soft agglomerate of cuprous oxide ultrafine particles of claim 1 which comprises reducing a cuprous carboxyl compound with hydrazine and/or a hydrazine derivative in an amount of 0.4-5.0 moles based on 1 mole of the cuprous carboxyl compound in an aqueous solution containing not less than 10% by weight of water to produce cuprous oxide ultrafine particles.

31. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a soft agglomerate of cuprous oxide ultrafine particles according to claim 30, wherein the solution contains at least one organic compound selected from the group consisting of alcohol compounds, ether compounds, ester compounds and amide compounds.

32. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a soft agglomerate of cuprous oxide ultrafine particles according to claim 30 which further comprises adding a basic compound for reducing the copper carboxyl compound with hydrazine and/or a hydrazine derivative.

33. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a soft agglomerate of cuprous oxide

ultrafine particles according to claim 30, wherein the copper carboxyl compound is copper acetate.

34. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a soft agglomerate of cuprous oxide ultrafine particles according to claim 30, wherein hydrazine and/or a hydrazine derivative are dissolved in the solution at a concentration higher than 20% by weight and the solution is added to the reaction solution.

35. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a soft agglomerate of cuprous oxide ultrafine particles of claim 1 which comprises obtaining a colloidal dispersion of cuprous oxide ultrafine particles by heating and reducing at least one copper compound selected from the group consisting of a copper carboxyl compound, a copper alkoxy compound and copper diketonate compound at a temperature of not lower than 160°C in diethylene glycol and forming a soft agglomerate of cuprous oxide ultrafine particles by further heating the colloidal dispersion.

36. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a soft agglomerate of cuprous oxide ultrafine particles of claim 1 which comprises obtaining a colloidal dispersion of cuprous oxide ultrafine particles by heating and reducing at least one copper compound selected from the group consisting of a copper carboxyl compound, a copper alkoxy compound and copper diketonate compound at a temperature of not lower than 160°C in diethylene glycol and then adding to the dispersion an agglomerating agent for cuprous oxide ultrafine particles.

37. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a soft agglomerate of cuprous oxide ultrafine particles of claim 1 which comprises heating and reducing at least one copper compound selected from the group consisting of a copper carboxyl compound, a copper alkoxy compound and copper diketonate compound at a temperature of not lower than 160°C in diethylene glycol and simultaneously adding to the diethylene glycol an agglomerating agent for cuprous oxide ultrafine particles, which is soluble in diethylene glycol at the reaction temperature.

38. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a soft agglomerate of cuprous oxide ultrafine particles according to claim 36, wherein the agglomerating agent is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of monoalcohol compounds, ether compounds, ester compound, nitrile compounds, amide compounds and imide compounds.

39. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a soft agglomerate of cuprous oxide ultrafine particles according to claim 35, wherein diethylene glycol contains water in an amount of not more than 30 moles based on 1 mole of the copper compound.